



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

CN# 33-05

MEMORANDUM

To: School Health & Nutrition Program Sponsors

From: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health & Nutrition Services
Holly Mueller, Program Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Health & Nutrition Programs

Date: January 19, 2005

RE: Equal Opportunity for Religious Organizations

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued the final rule to implement a policy that religiously affiliated or “faith-based” organizations should be able to participate in the USDA programs in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Constitution, including the religion clauses of the first amendment.

State or local governments receiving USDA assistance cannot discriminate for or against a religious organization based on its religious character or affiliation in selecting service providers.

Consistent with constitutional church-state guidelines, a “faith-based” agency that participates in a USDA program may continue to carry out its mission and retain its institutional identity provided it does not use USDA assistance to support inherently religious activities.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this memo, please contact your assigned School Health & Nutrition Program Specialist.

Nicholas Dunford (602) 542-8740 Patricia Johnson (602) 542-8782 Lynn Ladd (602) 364-0461
Kacey Frey (602) 542 8705 Crystal Kalahar (520) 628-6777 Mat McCarty (602) 542-4815
Traci Grgich (602) 364-1625 Katrina Klatt (602) 542-8711 Cara Pecsowski (602) 542-8703

